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PAGE 15

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Wednesday, January 15, 2014 **www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork**

Branagh steps into the 'Shadow'

PAGE 10

Connick Jr. lives the 'American' dream

PAGE 12

Will 2014 be the year of the hybrid workout?

PAGE 23

PAST,

No swipe. The MTA wants to get rid of the iconic yellow MetroCard by 2019 and replace it with a completely new system. **Faster service.** Some ideas include tap-and-go smart cards — like the Oyster Card in London — or using your smartphone to pay your fare. PAGE 02

PRESENT,

FUTURE

The MTA phased out subway tokens in 1994 and would like to replace the MetroCard by 2019 with an advanced system where customers can tap and go. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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NEWS

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1. 'VIDEO: Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders gyrate with hula-hoop mounted GoPro cam'
2. 'VIDEO: Devil baby spooks New Yorkers in prank'
3. 'Australian sharks equipped with chip that sends warning tweets'

Today's tweet

"Mayor B always looked dapper in his suits. On wknds, his colorful sweaters drew notice. Then, one July 4th, he wore red shorts. Oy."

@MichaelHwrdSaul

Unswiped potential: MTA wants a new fare system

The MTA hopes to move away from the swipe-card system in the next five years. Right: The first subway token vending machine in 1954. / GETTY IMAGES

Smart card. The MTA hopes to replace the MetroCard entirely with a more advanced way to pay by 2019.

Most veteran subway riders swipe their MetroCards with expertise perfected only through years of practice.

But after the card's 20th anniversary last week, the MTA envisions a city where straphangers tap and scan their way across the five boroughs.

"The MetroCard system is nearing the end of its useful life," MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said, "almost to the point of really becoming obsolete."

The MTA hopes to replace the MetroCard with an inclusive system allowing for multiple methods of payment. These might include bank-issued "tap-and-go" smart cards, scannable smartphone apps or other new technology that would ease commutes and operational expenses.

The MetroCard costs the MTA roughly $6 million annually.

"It's almost like trying to maintain your 8-track music collection on tapes," Bill Henderson, executive director of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA, said of the MetroCard.

The MTA aims to have a new fare system fully-integrated by 2019, Ortiz said, when the MetroCard becomes too costly to maintain.

He said the MTA hopes to let riders scan their phones at the turnstile in the new system. The MetroCard's replacement might also permit riders to pay fares directly using debit or credit cards enabled with RFID or NFC, which allows for contactless transactions.

Chicago's Ventra Card and London's Oyster Card use such technology.

The MTA hopes the update will allow riders to transfer more easily between bus, subway and rail lines. Eventually, the same device might be used to pay within other agencies, like PATH or NJ Transit.

Advocates said the updates would be a boon for riders.

"It's convenient — there'll be options for everyone," Straphangers Campaign spokesman Gene Russianoff said.

The MTA would sell a physical device of some kind for riders without access to bank-issued cards or smartphones, Ortiz said.

Here lies potentially the only cause for complaint, Russianoff said. It's likely that device would cost more than the $1 MetroCard fee.

"I don't think there's strong arguments against doing it," he said. "But this is New York, I'm not going to say no one will be grumbling."

ANNA SANDERS
anna.sanders@metro.us

A man passes through new nickel-operated machines in the subway in the early 1920s. / GETTY IMAGES

Modern method

"Transit systems are moving from storing the fare value on the physical card to having the card be an identifier that processes the payment through a computer system."

Randy Vanderhoof
Smart Card Alliance

Timeline

MetroCards replaced subway tokens in 1994.

- The MTA has been moving toward an alternative since 2006, but plans stalled.
- Officials hope to have a request for proposal to replace the MetroCard this year, awarding a contract by 2015.
- The MTA would like a fully integrated, new fare system by 2019, when the MetroCard becomes too costly to maintain.

Changing times

"I don't think there's strong arguments against doing it. But this is New York, I'm not going to say no one will be grumbling."

Russianoff

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East Harlem

Woman robs livery cab driver at gunpoint, say police

Cops are searching for a woman that they say robbed a livery cab driver at gunpoint Saturday night.

The driver picked up the suspect at the corner of 116th Street and Pleasant Avenue in East Harlem, police said. She asked to be taken to Bathgate Avenue and East 179th Street in the Bronx. When they arrived at the drop-off location about 9:30 p.m., the woman displayed a gun and took the driver's money.

The victim was not injured, police said.

Police released surveillance photos of the woman taken inside of the cab.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-TIPS (8477). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto Crime Stoppers website or by texting their tips to CRIMES (274637), then entering TIP577. **LAURA SHIN**

The suspect / NYPD

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The view from Empire State Building observation deck. / GETTY IMAGES

Empire State Building owners sue over pictures

Flash. A New York photographer has landed in hot water after snapping topless pics on the iconic building.

Photographer Allen Henson was surprised when a reporter informed him on Monday that the owners of the Empire State Building were suing him for $1.1 million. "I said whatever, joker, so I hung up the phone and looked up a couple of things — and sure enough, [the reporter] sent me the documents," Henson said.

The owners of the iconic building are suing Henson after he posted a photo of a topless woman on the observation deck on Instagram. They claim Henson damaged the building's reputation as a family-friendly tourist spot when he took the photos in August. Henson, 29, said he has made no money off of the photos he took with his phone and they have not been published commercially. He said he even checked to see if there were children before model Shelby Carter bared her breasts. It is legal in New York for women to go topless.

Henson has snapped plenty of photos of topless women in public. "You can't arrest a woman for being topless, so then there all of these nuances for a woman being topless in various situations," Henson explained. "It looks out of place, so it's interesting all of a sudden. The aesthetic is interesting, and the politics behind it are very interesting."

ANDREA PARK
andrea.park@metro.us

Harmless photos?

"The building has been there since 1931 — it's an icon. A cell phone picture I took is a fly in the windshield. No one was really hurt here." Allen Henson

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Brooklyn. Verizon workers rescue boy, 10, from manhole

A boy who fell down a manhole in Brooklyn on his way to school Tuesday morning was rescued by a Verizon FIOS crew, authorities said.

The 10-year-old boy was crossing the street near 13th Avenue and 49th Street in Borough Park when he tumbled down the 20-foot utility hole about 8:40 a.m., police and fire officials confirmed. They said that Verizon workers then used a ladder to help the boy from the hole before the fire department arrived.

The boy climbed up the ladder himself and was taken to Lutheran Hospital with bruising to his right leg. Police said that a new cover has been put on the manhole. **ANNA SANDERS**

New clues

Police charge man for rape in East Village

A Washington Heights man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly raping a woman in her East Village apartment Monday.

Fermin Flores, 32, was charged with rape, burglary and strangulation.

Police said the 22-year-old woman was walking into her East Seventh Street apartment around 3:30 a.m. when Flores pushed her inside and raped her.

Information on Flores' lawyer was not immediately available. **ANNA SANDERS**

NY medical marijuana bill clears early hurdle

New York legislators are on the path to legalize medical marijuana. / GETTY IMAGES

Pain reliever. The bill would cover more patients than Cuomo's plan.

A bill legalizing the use of medical marijuana passed the New York State Assembly Health Committee for the second time Tuesday morning, a week after Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced his own reversal on the issue.

The Compassionate Care Act was passed by the full Assembly last June, but failed to clear the Senate. Still, supporters are hoping that national momentum will propel the legislation forward this year.

Manhattan Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, the bill's sponsor, said that the bill is still necessary despite the governor's recent endorsement of medical marijuana.

Gottfried said that Cuomo's proposal is too restrictive and leaves out certain patients.

"The Legislature needs to enact legislation this session that is more comprehensive," he said.

ANNA SANDERS
anna.sanders@metro.us

Best practices

"With the advantage of 20 states and the District of Columbia having gone before us, the Compassionate Care Act incorporates lessons learned and best practices from those states."
Richard Gottfried

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Stiff spending

Penis pumps cost US government millions

Penis pumps cost the U.S. government's Medicare program $172 million between 2006 and 2011, about twice as much as the consumer would have paid at the retail level, according to a government watchdog's report released on Monday.

The report by the inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services said Medicare paid nearly 474,000 claims for vacuum erection systems, or VES, totaling about $172.4 million from 2006 to 2011. **REUTERS**

Claims on the rise

38.6M

Yearly claims for the devices nearly doubled from $20.6 million in 2006 to $38.6 million in 2011.

Suspect in custody

At least two hurt in New Mexico school shooting

A shooter opened fire at a middle school in New Mexico on Tuesday, seriously wounding at least two teenage students before being taken into custody, police and hospital officials said.

"The shooter has been apprehended," police in Roswell, New Mexico, said in a statement, without giving any further details on the incident or the suspected gunman.

The two injured students from Berrendo Middle School were taken to a local hospital. **REUTERS**

School shootings

2

The shooting incident was the second at a middle school in three months.

Christie apologizes again, vows cooperation in speech

Hot seat. Brewing scandals threaten to tarnish Christie's reputation and national appeal.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie opened his State of the State Address on Tuesday with an apology and a vow to fully cooperate with "all appropriate" investigations of an apparent scheme to cause massive traffic jams as well as the use of federal money for a state ad campaign.

Christie — a charismatic conservative and an early favorite in the Republican bid for the White House in 2016, was re-elected in a landslide victory last November — but the two scandals coming in the first weeks of the year have put him on the defensive.

"Without a doubt, we will cooperate with all appropriate inquiries to ensure that this breach of trust does not happen again," Christie said.

Two sets of emails last week appeared to show that Christie's aides had orchestrated lane closures for several days last September on a stretch of highway leading to the George Washington Bridge and then lied about it.

Christie has denied any knowledge of the apparent orchestration to snarl traffic at the bridge as political payback against the Democratic mayor of the nearby city of Fort Lee, N.J., for his refusal to endorse Christie's gubernatorial bid.

But the governor's speech mostly addressed the "Jersey Comeback," which Christie has long claimed has resulted in private sector jobs and secured public-private investment in the Garden State. **REUTERS**

Christie delivers the State of the State Address in the Assembly Chambers at the Statehouse in Trenton, N. J. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"The last week has certainly tested this administration. Mistakes were clearly made. And as a result, we let down the people we are entrusted to serve." Christie

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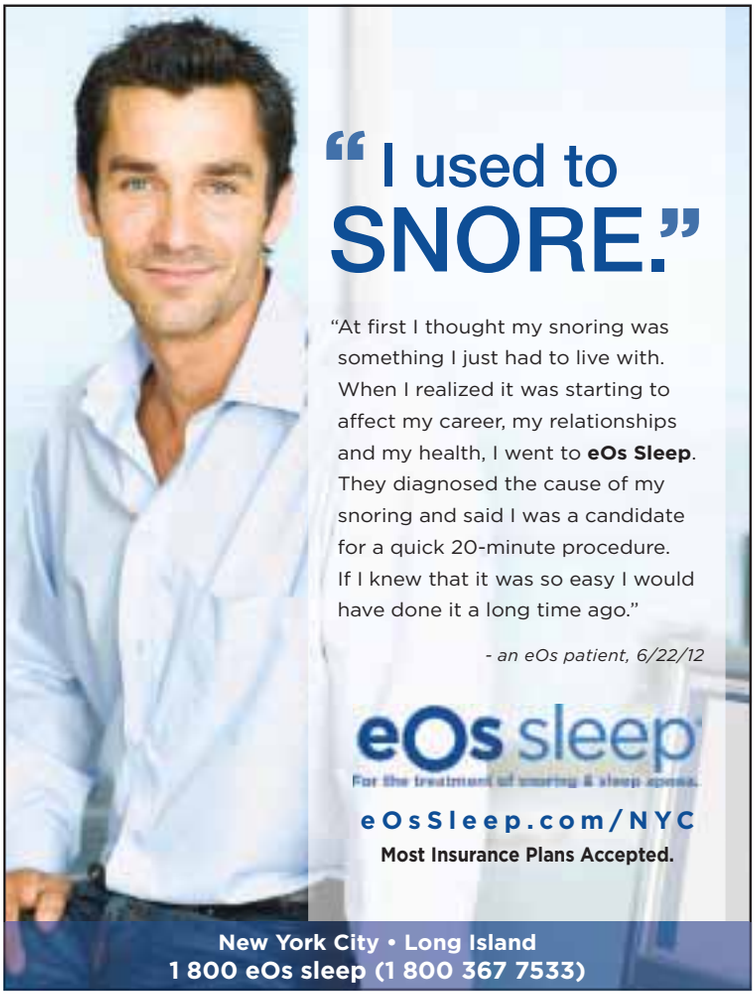
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Ready, aim, fire. Wyo. lawmaker seeks firing squad for executions

A Wyoming lawmaker has proposed the use of the firing squad to execute state inmates if any issues ever prevented the state from using lethal injection, the Associated Press reports.

Republican Sen. Bruce Burns told the AP that state law currently calls for using a gas chamber if lethal injection is unavailable.

"One of the reasons I chose firing squad as opposed to any other form of execution is because, frankly, it's one of the cheapest for the state," Burns said. "The expense of building a gas chamber I think would be prohibitive when you consider how many people would be executed by it, and even the cost of gallows."

Burns, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told the AP that he also considers the gas chamber to be cruel and unusual punishment.

He's introduced the bill for consideration in the legislative session that starts Feb. 10.

Wyoming has only one inmate on death row and last executed an inmate in 1992, AP reported. METRO

Firing squad saves money for the state. / GETTY IMAGES

Google gains entry to home with $3.2B Nest compact deal

High stakes. The new deal is the second largest in Google's history.

Google / GETTY IMAGES

Apple alum

100

According to a search on professional network LinkedIn, roughly 100 of Nest's 300 employees have worked at Apple in the past.

Quoted

"Home automation is one of the bigger opportunities when you talk about the Internet of everything and connecting everything." Patil

Google Inc. took its biggest step to go deeper into consumers' homes, announcing a $3.2 billion deal to buy smart thermostat and smoke alarm-maker Nest Labs Inc., scooping up a promising line of products and a prized design team led by the "godfather" of the iPod.

Nest will continue to operate as its own distinct brand after the all-cash deal closes, Google said.

The Nest acquisition gives Google a stepping stone into an important new market at a time when consumer appliances and Internet services are increasingly merging.

"Nest Labs appears to be focused on thermostats and smoke alarms, but it's not far-fetched to see Google expanding this technology into other devices over time," said Shyam Patil, an analyst at Wedbush.

Nest gained a large following with its first thermostat — a round, brushed-metal device with a convex glass screen that displays temperature and changes hue to match the color of the wall it attaches to. It also tracks usage and employs that data to automatically set temperatures. REUTERS

Card hacking

Senators ask Target CEO for information on data breach

Two U.S. senators sought answers from the chief executive of Target Corp. as questions mounted in Washington about the company's response to the hacking of credit and debit cards of millions its customers during the holiday shopping season.

"We ask that Target's information security officials provide a briefing to committee staff regarding your company's investigation and latest findings," said John Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and Claire McCaskill, who heads a Commerce subcommittee on consumer protection. REUTERS

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Prince will guest star on 'New Girl'

Is there anything Zooey Deschanel's big blue eyes can't do?
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Prince is set to appear in the post-Super Bowl episode of "New Girl."

See more at www.metro.us

1

Forget Manic Pixie Dream Girl — I think Zooey Deschanel might be a straight-up wizard. Surely only a powerful spell could explain how she got Prince — motherf—in' Prince — to guest star on her sitcom "New Girl." Even more indicative of sorcery? Apparently it was his idea.

Prince is set to appear in the post-Super Bowl episode of "New Girl," during which he'll help Jess (Deschanel) and Nick (Jake Johnson) with their relationship. Producer Brett Baer told E! News that Prince is a huge fan of the show, and of Jess and Nick's love affair in particular. "He knows everything about the show. He contacted Zooey [Deschanel] and Hannah [Simone] directly and asked to do the show. We couldn't work it out last year. But when the Super Bowl thing was floated, it was perfect timing."

"He said, 'I want to be involved in the show in a real way, and I want to help Nick and Jess with their relationship,'" executive producer Dave Finkel said.

Finkel, presumably after confirming with a bunch of people that he didn't dream of Prince asking to counsel his sitcom characters, agreed. Man, is there anything Zooey Deschanel's big blue eyes can't do? Maybe she should bat them at Kim Jong-un and get him to stop executing his uncles.

MELINDA TAUB

Talking point

Why Willow Smith turned down 'Annie'

Willow Smith was slated to star in the modern remake of "Annie" that her dad, Will Smith, is producing with Jay Z — but it turns out she has more important things to do. "I just wanted to chill and be at home and decompress and just find out what I want to do and where I stand on this planet, with the little tiny place we have," the 13-year-old tells V magazine, explaining why she turned down the role, which eventually went to "Beasts of the Southern Wild" star Quvenzhane Wallis.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Director compares 'Hunger Games' to slavery

2

David O. Russell is not one to mince words. And now the director might cause some trouble with his recent comparison of the "Hunger Games" franchise to, um, slavery — but at least he's aware of it.

"Talk about 12 years of slavery, that's what the franchise is. And I'm going to get in so much trouble for saying that," Russell tells the New York Daily News, suggesting producers go easier on Lawrence, who just won a Golden Globe for his film "American Hustle." "I personally think they should give her a bit of breathing room over there because they're printing money. But she's a very alive person."

That is, she's an "alive" person who has rights and a huge paycheck (unlike, you know, slaves).

Director David O. Russell thinks the "Hunger Games" franchise's producers should go a little easier on star Jennifer Lawrence.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Paris Hilton is heading south, Lady Gaga is looking back and Steven Soderbergh is being critical of the new Pope.

@ParisHilton: Just finished packing. Flying to my show in Punta del Este, Uruguay tomorrow. Excited to travel there for my 1st time, heard it's beautiful.

@ladygaga: 5 years today I had my 1st #1 Song with Just Dance. I can't believe I'm even here. Still making music I believe in. In my big shoes. Paws up

@Bitchuation: Pope Francis conspicuously silent regarding the Catholic Church's past treatment of cats.

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KENNETH BRANAGH

The actor and filmmaker talks about his shift from Shakespeare to Marvel and Tom Clancy.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

GETTY IMAGES

Kenneth Branagh was only 29 when he directed and starred in 1989's "Henry V." Though he's frequently returned to the Bard — including an uncut "Hamlet" in 1996 — he's directed (in addition to frequently acting in) all manner of genres: thrillers ("Dead Again"), dramedies ("Peter's Friends"), horror ("Mary Shelley's Frankenstein"). Still, it was odd to see his name on 2011's "Thor," as well as the new "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit," about the Tom Clancy character of "The Hunt for Red October."

Were you looking to do something of similar size right after doing "Thor"?
I was not particularly looking to continue to do big movies. It started with an idea, and the idea was the script coming through the door; and I started reading it and I was hooked by it. The Jack Ryan character is this everyman with a brilliant mind who gets out of his depths and is drawn into covert operation. I loved those early '70s movies like "Three Days of the Condor," "The French Connection," "Dog Day Afternoon" — these gritty, atmospheric movies that combined great action with great actors.

Not all of your earlier films are small: "Hamlet" is quite large and in 70mm. But what's the appeal of the specific size and breed of franchise filmmaking?
You have greater resources with a film like this. It is amazing when you realize that if you would like to use a camera crane, at least once a day and maybe even three times, they will end up being there. Sometimes you turn around and look at the numbers on the set and think, "Christ, how did all these people get here?" So it does often affect you, especially when you've made movies where you're driving the cast and sometimes making this big pot of chili, which is the catering that day.

Chris Pine's version of Ryan isn't a slick superhero. When he's fighting, he can be clumsy.
I like that, that's a good word: clumsy. The books are full of detail that says, "Yeah, he's a little like you and I." You can imagine having dinner with him; you can imagine being his friend; you can imagine bumping into him at the supermarket. But you'd also be glad to be in a fix with him, because he has a dogged determination and a kind of transcendent decency. One of the things I liked about working with Chris Pine on this is that he can do that and still be the sexy, charismatic movie star.

At the Globe

Back to the Bard

Branagh will one day return to filming Shakespeare. Is there a play he'd love to film? "'A Winter's Tale' is a one I've wanted to do all of my life. And now I'm getting old enough to think about 'King Lear' as well, a play I've been in many times. I love getting that language out there."

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‘It’s a new show now’

Reality. Harry Connick Jr. joins the judges table on “American Idol.”

For Harry Connick Jr., joining this year’s “American Idol” judges lineup was a no-brainer.

“It just felt like a natural thing to do,” says the multi-platinum Grammy winner, who will take a seat alongside Jennifer Lopez and Keith Urban on the judges panel when “Idol” returns with a two-night premiere Wednesday and Thursday on FOX. “My whole life has been a lot of interaction with people who are a lot better than I am, and as I got older I started to be on the giving end of those things. … I feel very comfortable in that kind of environment.”

The singer is no stranger to “Idol,” having served as a mentor to contestants in 2010 and 2013. He even cops to watching the show since day one. Becoming a permanent fixture on the scene, he says, is “different, but not a surprise.”

“It’s extremely intense. The days are long. It’s very emotional, but it’s just the wildest ride, and it’s a wonderful ride with great people, and I really just like being a part of it. … We’re just having a ball.”

Despite a rotating cast of superstar judges (Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj, Steven Tyler and Ellen DeGeneres have all served on the show) “Idol” has been on the ratings decline in recent years. Connick says he didn’t ask Lopez or Urban for advice before his new gig because “it’s not rocket science.”

This marks the first year without industry vet Randy Jackson as an “Idol” judge. Jackson is shifting into an in-house mentor role, a move that Connick is happy with.

“Randy Jackson is great. … But it’s a new show now,” he says. “It has different producers, different directors, different panel, different contestants. It has a new look, it has a new feel, and it’s a new day for this great show. Fortunately for all of us Randy is still a huge part of it as a mentor, and I think the kids are going to be very lucky to have him on their side.”

And the kids who have Connick on their side will know — the singer says he won’t be shy about doling out critiques. “Sometimes you do have to give bad news, and the truth is the best thing these kids can hear. I think you can be diplomatic about it, but you also have to be real. You have to tell it like it is.”

“American Idol,” with new judge Harry Connick Jr., right, kicks off its two-night season premiere tonight at 8 on FOX. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

“Sometimes you do have to give bad news, and the truth is the best thing these kids can hear. ... You have to tell it like it is.” Connick

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Theater. The newest jukebox musical on Broadway celebrates Carole King.

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You'll be tapping your toes as you witness Carole King's journey to discover her own "Beautiful" voice. / JOAN MARCUS

Would that life were as simple as it seems in "Beautiful, The Carole King Musical," at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre. But, hey, we're talking about a jukebox musical. If you're looking for complexity, you're in the wrong genre. But if you're looking for an exhilarating earful — and eyeful — of dazzlingly presented music from Ms. King's impressive oeuvre, buckle your seat belts and enjoy the ride.

"Beautiful" follows King (a fantastic Jessie Mueller) in her evolution from teenage songwriter to mature performing artist. The story: Brooklyn girl sells songs to impresario (Don Kirshner, played by Jeb Brown), marries her lyricist (Jake Epstein as Gerry Goffin) and produces a string of hits. They befriend Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil (Jarrod Spector and Anika Larsen), another songwriting couple. The marriage goes well for a while, then sours, but King's career soars when she starts performing her own material.

Director Marc Bruni cleverly showcases the Motown-era hits from the King-Goffin and Mann-Weill catalogs. Some are sung by the writers, some by the singers who performed them, some by a combination of both. Dressed to the nines, groups like the Shirelles and the Drifters contrast beautifully with the plain-clothed King and company. Derek McLane's bi-level set is a knockout that Bruni uses to create a whirlwind of activity that never seems chaotic.

And then there's the music, in all its glorious variety. Whether it's King-sung standards like "So Far Away" and "It's Too Late" or her earlier work (it may come as a surprise that the same person was responsible for "Pleasant Valley Sunday" and "The Locomotion"), it takes enormous willpower not to sing along. No worries — the songs will linger in your mind to sing long after the curtain goes down.

MICHAEL BRACKEN
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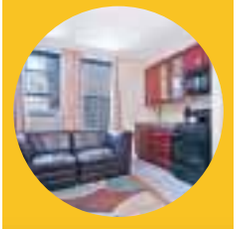
The most expensive listing to hit the market this week was a townhouse at 12 E. 79th St. Marketed by Brown Harris Stevens, this neo-gothic limestone mansion spans over 16,000 square feet and six floors, with a prime location on Fifth Avenue.



Cheapest

$180K

The least expensive property this week was a co-op located at 530 Manhattan Ave. Marketed by Douglas Elliman, this one-bedroom has a renovated stainless steel kitchen and ample closet space. It's located in an income-restricted elevator building.

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Scarlett Johansson's favorite kitchen gadget: SodaStream

Home goods.
The actress waxes poetic about homemade carbonated drinks.

Scarlett Johansson likes bubbles — a lot. The actress admitted as much last Friday evening at the launch event announcing her new role as the global brand ambassador for SodaStream, for which she'll star in a Super Bowl commercial on Feb. 2.

"I grew up drinking carbonated water. My mom used to mix it with fruit juice instead of [buying] soda. When I moved out of the house and started throwing out my own garbage, I realized how many plastic bottles and cans I was wasting," she says. "I felt really guilty about that, but I still wanted to drink carbonated water."

Johansson's guilt-free solution: SodaStream, the DIY soda maker. "I went online and thought, there's got to be soda makers, we have been drinking soda for centuries," says the actress. "I bought mine at Williams-Sonoma and my love for SodaStream started."

MAJA LUNDAGER
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More with the bombshell

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What's your favorite flavor?
I drink a lot of sparkling water more than anything. I like the diet flavors because they're [not] made with Aspartame. We did the grapefruit and orange, which was a combination I like, and the Dr. Pete, which is kind of a spicier Dr. Pepper flavor.

Do you spend a lot of time in the kitchen?
I like to cook. I don't eat red meat, so I make a lot of turkey meatloaf, chicken chili — a lot of American comfort foods, but the healthy version of them.

ScarJo prefers sparkling over flat. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It really changed my life. Now I don't feel guilty about enjoying the beverages that I do at home. I love that I can have a party and not have trash bags full of waste."
Johansson

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The Real Estate Board of New York's 118th Annual Banquet

The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) will honor six leaders, trailblazers and power brokers at the industry's most celebrated event of the year, the 118th Annual Banquet, that will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at the New York Hilton Hotel.

The recipients will be honored for their outstanding accomplishments that have made a lasting impact on New York City's vibrant real estate market. These highly successful professionals are noted for their business acumen and talent, which has helped them to improve their communities and uplift their fellow citizens through philanthropic and humanitarian service.

"The REBNY Banquet is a time-honored tradition to celebrate the industry's best and brightest. This year's honorees reflect the kind of excellence and dedication we strive to recognize and promote," said REBNY President Steven Spinola. "We are pleased to spotlight and thank these honorees for their exceptional contributions to our city before their friends, colleagues and the entire industry."

This year's honorees are:

Stephen L. Green, Chairman of the Board, SL Green Realty Corp., who will receive The Bernard H. Mendik Lifetime

Leadership in Real Estate Award, which is presented each year to a REBNY member for a lifetime of exceptional accomplishment in the profession and dedication to leadership in New York real estate.

Kenneth Fisher, Senior Partner of Fisher Brothers, who will receive The Harry B. Helmsley Distinguished

New Yorker Award, which is presented to an industry member for invaluable contributions to New York's civic welfare and to the real estate community.

Joel I. Picket, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for Gotham Organization, Inc., who will receive

The Kenneth R. Gerrety Humanitarian Award, which recognizes meritorious service to the community by a REBNY member.

Robin Abrams, Executive Vice President of The Lansco Corporation, who will receive The Louis

Smadbeck Broker Recognition Award, which honors an executive who exemplifies the characteristics of a successful commercial broker.

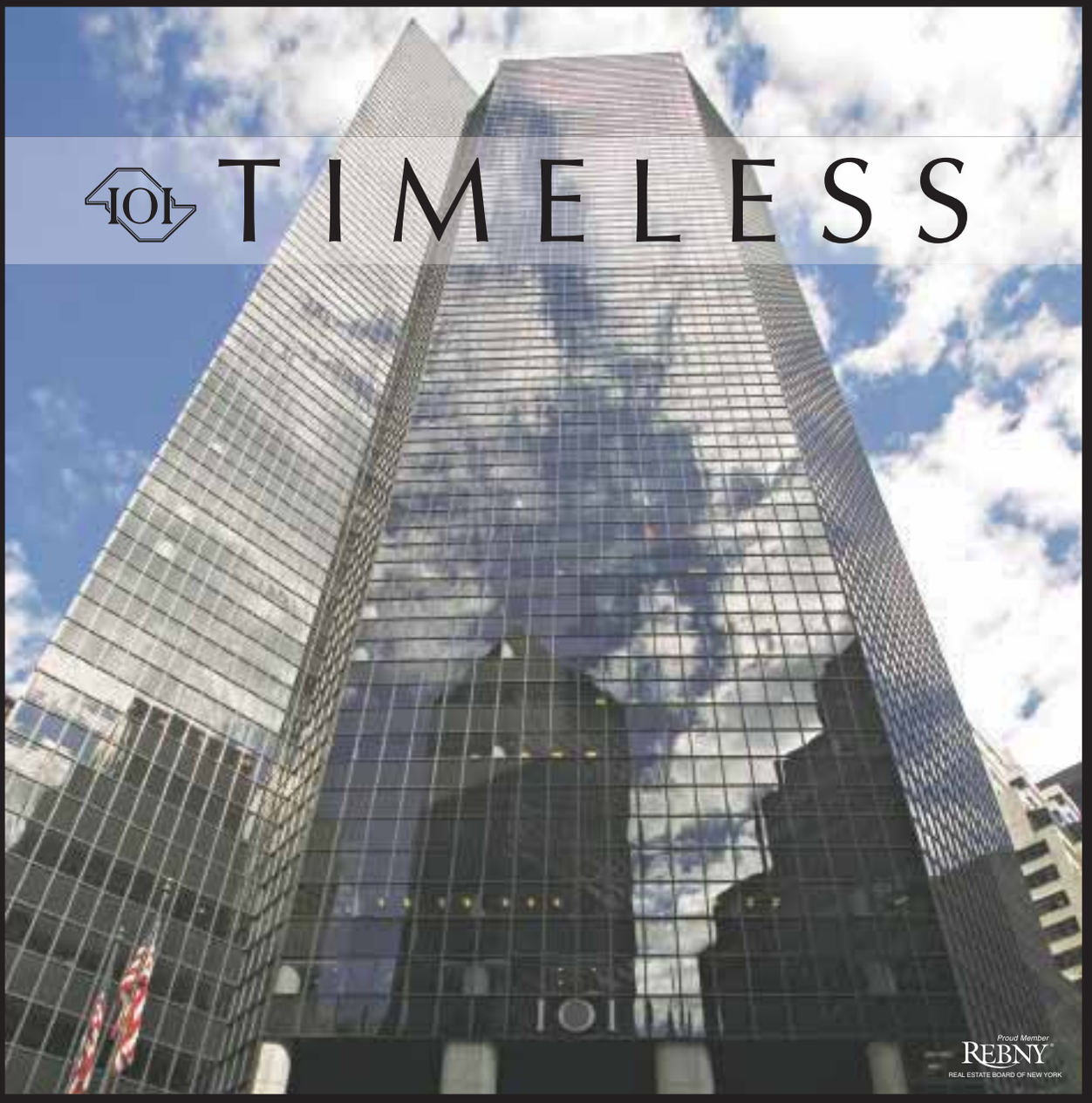
Thomas L. Hill, Senior Vice President of Boston Properties' New York Property Management Department, who will receive The George M. Brooker Management Executive of the Year Award, which recognizes individuals of superior accomplishment in the commercial management

industry based on outstanding professionalism, civic achievement and contributions to the real estate industry.

Robert C. Fink, Director of Leasing for The Winter Organization, who

will receive the Young Real Estate Man of the Year Award, selected by the Young Men's/Women's Real Estate Association of New York on the basis of integrity, professionalism and personal ethics.

REBNY STAY ON TOP OF NEW YORK



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3	Studio	1	$802	$29,418 - $36,120
12	1 Bedroom	1 2	$863	$31,578 - $36,120 $31,578 - $41,280
23	2 Bedrooms	2 3 4	$1,044	$37,852 - $41,280 $37,852 - $46,440 $37,852 - $51,540
5	3 Bedrooms	3 4 5 6	$1,199	$43,749 - $46,440 $43,749 - $51,540 $43,749 - $55,680 $43,749 - $59,820

* Subject to occupancy criteria
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Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: **EITHER** online **OR** by mail. **To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing."** All online applications must be submitted by **March 6, 2014. To request an application by mail, please mail a self-addressed envelope to: Rufus King Court Apartments, P.O. Box 390, Floral Park, New York 11002.** All mailed applications must be returned by regular mail only **(no priority, certified, registered, express, overnight or oversized mail will be accepted)** to a post office box number that will be listed on the application, and must be postmarked by **March 6, 2014.** Applications will be selected by lottery; applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Disqualified applications will not be accepted. A general preference will be given to New York City residents. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive preference for 5% of the units; eligible persons that include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the units. Current and eligible residents of **Queens Community Board 12** will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a 5% preference of the units.

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Real estate. Watch these two neighborhoods along the water in the coming year.

South Street Seaport

Along the cobblestone streets of the South Street Seaport tourists and shoppers alike roam the paths once dominated by fishermen. Developers have taken note of the Seaport's popularity and it looks like the coming years could see more and more New Yorkers calling the area home.

The last decade has seen residential high-rises fly up all around the Fulton/Seaport area, with the twisting New York by Gehry being one of many developments redefining the downtown skyline. The effects of Sandy may have given developers a scare, but new projects in the pipeline show renewed confidence in building along Manhattan's downtown shores.

New renderings from SHoP Architects reveal that a 50-story combination hotel and condominium next to Pier 17 is in the works, as reported recently by the New York Times. And even more development is planned: Just up the block, a 75-story tower is going up at 92 Fulton St., developed by The Mavrix Group.

Consumers can expect a new inventory of condos to choose from that historically hasn't been available, and agents have confidence that their clients will see strong return on their investments.

"The market still offers great value, so your budget gets you further in terms of square footage, and the luxury buildings in the area are known for their abundance of amenities," explains Ariel Cohen, associate real estate broker at Douglas Elliman. "That and every subway line stops in the Financial District — plus with the ferries and easy access to the FDR and West Side Highway, transportation is a snap."

Prices may rise in the near future, though, as other new buildings (such as the conversion of the iconic 5 Beekman St.) will bring more luxury housing and hotel inventory to the neighborhood. Combine this with possible plans from the Howard Hughes Corporation to introduce a 40,000-square-foot Eataly-style international food market and the center of attention downtown could be shifting closer to the water than ever.

What's next

Luxury living

Opening in 2015, the Seaport will be home to Manhattan's first high-end movie theater-restaurant combo when the iPic theater chain opens its 505 seat cinema. As reported by the New York Post, tickets will cost between $14 and $28, and guests will be able to sit in reclining chairs while ordering food and beverages.

New hipster sport?

Brooklyn's Boca Raton

Brand new to the area, The Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club is the city's first bar devoted to the only sport (other than maybe bridge) that your grandparents can beat you at. Check it out at **Royalpalmsshuffle.com**.

Gowanus

Change is abrewin' along the murky shores of arguably the most polluted water passage in the country. Sandwiched between trendy/family-friendly Park Slope and Cobble Hill, Gowanus and its eponymous canal are poised to be home to an influx of residents in the upcoming years following a year that brought the Brooklyn neighborhood's first Whole Foods Market.

Developers have been building along the borders of Gowanus for the past decade, with 4th Avenue in particular seeing popular developments such as Arias and 500 Fourth Ave. (though they're often branded as Park Slope). Now the heart of the neighborhood is preparing to see ground break on a mega-project that will change the area possibly even more than any high-end grocery store could: a 700-unit rental project right along the canal.

The Lightstone Group's plans to take control and develop a former 12-story Toll Brothers project at 365 Bond St. have been met with community opposition. Current residents fear overcrowding and possible flooding issues as a result of the development, though demolition has already begun on the site. While it remains to be seen whether the project will add value to the community, the addition of high-quality real estate is likely to raise property prices.

Dave Maundrell, the founder and president of Brooklyn-based brokerage AptsandLofts.com, is seeing his company consult on four developments in the area.

"The major change so far is the influx of commercial yet creative-type businesses, nightlife, artists taking inexpensive work space and, of course Whole Foods. Additionally, the area is a focus for hotel development. On the edge of Gowanus we are preparing to launch 316 Bergen St. this spring. I look at that project connecting the 3rd Ave. corridor a bit with downtown."

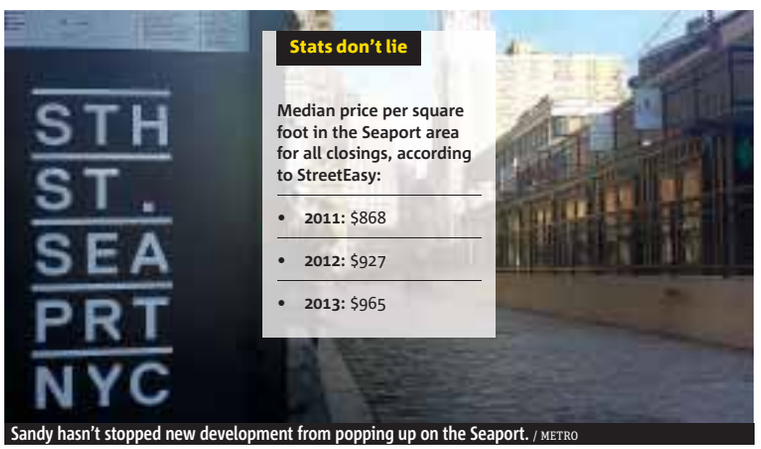
People moving to Gowanus may be surprised to see a different neighborhood from the Gowanus of past. There's an upcoming TEDxGowanus neighborhood discussion planned, and venues such as Dinosaur BBQ on Union Street and the multi-functional Bell House (which hosts everything from chili cook-offs to '90s cover bands) are bringing people from the surrounding areas into the heart of the neighborhood more than ever. METRO

Stats don't lie

Median price per square foot in Gowanus, according to StreetEasy:

- **2011:** $691
- **2012:** $695
- **2013:** $860

A new rental is going up along the Gowanus Canal. ISTOCKPHOTO



Stats don't lie

Median price per square foot in the Seaport area for all closings, according to StreetEasy:

- **2011:** $868
- **2012:** $927
- **2013:** $965

Sandy hasn't stopped new development from popping up on the Seaport. / METRO

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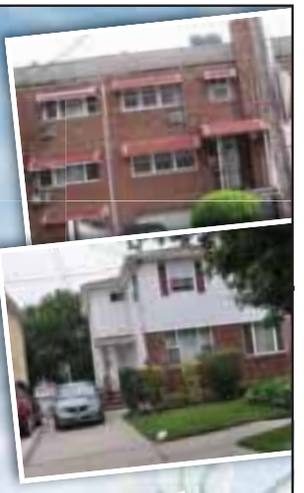

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Celeb news

Taylor Swift is in the market for a NYC home

The country crooner has been checking out apartments in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, the New York Daily News reported. Among the spots were a $12 million townhouse at 9 St. Luke's Place, previously owned

TAYLOR SWIFT
GETTY IMAGES

by Arthur Laurents, who wrote "West Side Story," and a $6.25 million unit at 22 Charlton St.

Swift, who has become something of a prolific real estate buyer as of late, joked in a recent Vanity Fair interview that she buys "houses near every boy I like."

"If I like you, I will apparently buy up the real estate market just to freak you out so you leave me," she told the magazine. REAL DEAL

The Dakota is one of New York City's landmark buildings. / GETTY IMAGES

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Dakota co-op chief sells unit for $27.5M

Real estate. The famous building gets an artsy new resident.

Investment banker and philanthropist Bruce Barnes, head of the co-op board at the Dakota on the Upper West Side, has sold his three-bedroom apartment at the famed building for $27.5 million, according to public records filed with the city yesterday.

The sale comes a year after the unit was pulled from the market. Indeed, the unit went into contract in 2012, but that deal never closed. It had been listed for $29.6 million by Brown Harris Stevens' broker John Burger that time around.

The buyer of the unit is noted Canadian art collector Ydessa Hendeles, who, according to the trade publication ArtNews, is one of the 50 most influential art professionals in the world. Until recently, Hendeles operated a private art foundation in Toronto, but the foundation shuttered in 2012. Last fall, Hendeles sold 144 works of contemporary art to the private museum of U.S. billionaire Mitchell Rales for an undisclosed price.

The property features 12-foot ceilings, 19th-century moldings and seven wood-burning fireplaces, according to the 2012 listing. It also has a 24-foot Central Park-facing library, and two balconies.

The Dakota, the courtyard of which was the site of the murder of Beatles legend John Lennon, is home to Lennon's wife Yoko Ono, as well as to actress Lauren Bacall and singer Roberta Flack, according to previous news reports.

By the numbers

$29.6M

The original listing price for Bruce Barnes' apartment at the Dakota.

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Hydrating hair oils for winter

Don't underestimate the power of frigid temperatures, biting winds and central heating to damage your hair.

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So many of us assume that the only time our locks deserve a little TLC — a smother of coconut oil, a dollop of shea butter — is once they've been frazzled by the burning sun and dipped in sea salt. Once summer is over, you switch to richer conditioner, slip on a beanie and voila. But that's not enough.

Bitter temperatures like the kind we've been facing, central heating and strong winds can do just as much damage to your hair as a 12-day beach vacay. To help, we've rounded up products formulated with the most nourishing ingredients, including avocado, olive and argan oils, to help your hair survive winter.

ROMINA McGUINNESS
romina.mcguinness@metro.lu

2 Moroccanoil

Treatment Light, $50

3 Kiehl's

Hydrating Oil-in-Cream, $30

4 Ojon

Rare Blend Oil Moisture Therapy, $49

5 Wella

SP Luxe Oil, $33

6 Sisley

Extract for Hair and Scalp, $139

7 L'Oreal

Professional Mythic Oil, $23

Kicks. The dream of the '90s is alive with ASOS and Puma

While we await Riccardo Tisci's collaboration with Nike to hit the shelves, there's another (more affordable) sportswear rendezvous to get excited about. For Spring, ASOS teamed up with Puma on a 12- piece collection inspired by '90s streetwear.

The capsule, which debuted on Monday and ranges in price from $63 to $117, will (as you can imagine, based on the era) have an in-your-face look. Skirts and crop tops feature a mix of color-blocking, graffiti and animal prints, along with feminine lace in a bold color palette of black, white and gray with vibrant red and metallic accents. METRO

Ready for hanging out — or, you know, a dance battle. / PROVIDED

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Get 'Toned Up' with Bravo's newest stars

Hodgson, left, and Dawn, star on "Toned Up," every Thursday at 10:30 p.m. on Bravo. To see all the moves in more detail, visit www.metro.us / GETTY IMAGES

Body movin'

Why it works

These moves work multiple muscle groups, so "you're being more efficient and boosting your metabolism," Dawn says. Eat right, do this sequence two times a week, and add a strength training and high-intensity interval training workout, and you'll start seeing results in a couple weeks.

NEW in the new year

Fitness. Best friends and business partners Katrina Hodgson and Karena Dawn give us a 20-minute workout routine that'll cinch every inch of your bod.

First things first

Warm up

Do some high-knees, jumping jacks and toe touches for a total of 2 minutes. You also can intensify your workout by doing 45-60 seconds of jumping jacks or jump rope between each move.

Bikini walkout with triceps push-up

Reach down to place your hands just in front of your feet. Slowly walk your hands forward until you are in plank position, abs engaged. From plank, perform a tricep pushup, keeping your elbows tucked into your waistline, hands directly under your shoulder. Push back up, lifting your booty to the sky and walk your hands back to your feet. Stand tall and repeat 10 times.

ALL WORKOUT PHOTOS MILES DIXON

Tummy tuck with glute kickback

Start in a plank position on your hands. Perform a tummy tuck by pulling your right knee up to your right elbow and keeping your abs engaged. Then kick your right leg straight back and up to really work the rear! Repeat 10 times before alternating sides.

Bottoms up

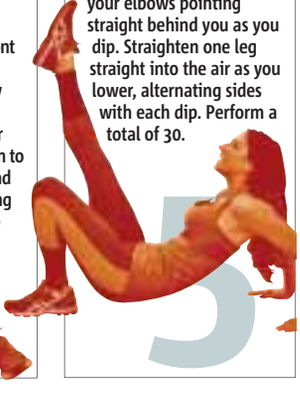
Lay on your belly with your palms down in front of your face. Use your lower back to lift your legs off the ground and then curl both legs up, working the butt and the backs of the thighs. Repeat 15-20 times.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

Side plank cinch (up and down)

Lay on your right side with your legs straight and your feet stacked one in front of the other. Support yourself with your right arm, keeping it straight and directly underneath your shoulder. You want to create a straight line from your feet to your shoulders. Begin by dipping your hips down to the ground, and pulling back up just beyond starting. Repeat 10 times before switching sides to really cinch the waistline and tone the obliques.

Skinny dip



Sit with your feet in front of you, knees bent and your hands behind your bum, directly under your shoulders. Push up through your hands and heels to lift your booty off the ground, until you're in a table top position. Push forward through your hips as far as possible and dip down using your arms to perform tricep dips. Keep your elbows pointing straight behind you as you dip. Straighten one leg straight into the air as you lower, alternating sides with each dip. Perform a total of 30.

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The fitness trends you'll see this year

We asked top trainers what kinds of workouts you can expect to see surge in popularity this year. Here, they weigh in. **MEREDITH ENGEL**

Simone De La Rue

Trains Jennifer Aniston, Chelsea Handler and Naomi Watts: "I would say dance cardio, as it is one of my signature classes. It's a fun way to burn calories, and it doesn't require equipment. The second would be Cross-Fit. It is already starting to take over the scene. Once some of the exercises are modified to suit women better, I think this will dominate."

Gunnar Peterson

Trains Khloe Kardashian, Jennifer Lopez and Bruce Willis: "Spinning bike with weights, yoga-boxing — it's all combination stuff. It all comes down to multi-tasking. You can't be too boutique anymore. Then [clients will] feel like they're neglecting something else so they'll leave you and go to that."

Adam Rosante

His client list is so exclusive, it's his policy not to name names: "I think we'll see people embracing more online workouts and continuing to move more toward functional fitness that encourages a sense of community."

NEW in the new year

Harley Pasternak

Trains Lady Gaga, Usher and Rihanna

1 "Fitness getting out of the gym. The big-box model is still in effect, but I think when people want to do yoga they'll go to a yoga studio. ... The gym is sort of like a Swiss Army Knife of wellness. They happen to have scissors — are they the best pair of scissors? No, but if you need them they're on your knife."

2 "The use of activity monitors. ... The idea of people not being tethered to the gym, and being able to monitor [fitness]."

3 "There's research that people who are entertained with some kind of medium, like a TV show, while they do cardio have a lower rate of perceived exertion," says Pasternak, who works with Netflix to promote exercising while you're entertained.

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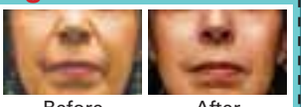

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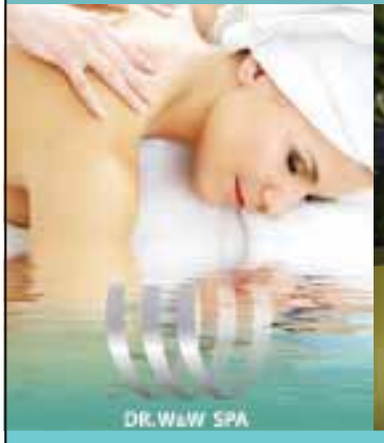

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Fix your thyroid

This week's tip comes from Jen Wittman, holistic health expert, chef and owner of The Healthy Plate and Thyroid Loving Care wellness programs.

If you're having a hard time losing weight, or are dealing with brain fog or fatigue, your thyroid might be to blame. Proper thyroid function is crucial to weight management, focus and energy, and a selenium deficiency could be affecting yours. One way to get your daily dose of selenium is to eat two Brazil nuts a day. Other selenium-rich foods are sunflower seeds, eggs and mushrooms. METRO

WITTMAN
PROVIDED

Health notes

The TD 5 Boro Bike Tour rolls into town this spring. / METRO FILE PHOTO

New studios we can't wait to check out in 2014

1 **RowHouse** (555 W. 59th St., 212-288-8045) and **CityRow** (80 Fifth Ave., 212-242-4790), two indoor rowing studios

2 **Fly Fitness** (pole dancing, hoops, aerial classes, yoga): 348 W. 36th St., 212-643-0256

3 **Simply Cycle Astoria:** 30-69 Steinway St., 2nd Fl., 718-806-1962

4 **ChaiseFitness 92Y:** (the bungee workout's second location; hosting free classes today), 1395 Lexington Ave., lower level, 212-987-6100

5 **CrossFit NYC The Black Box:** 157 Columbus Ave., 212-684-2018

Dates to know

1 **Today:** Last day you can get 30 percent off **Organic Avenue's Love Deep or Go Green Cleanse**

2 **May 4:** The 37th annual **TD 5 Boro Bike Tour** (register now at www.bikenewyork.org). MEREDITH ENGEL

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This week in health news

Smokers still ignorant on tobacco's health risks; with e-cigarettes, even more so

Location of study: U.S.
Study subjects: 1,379 teens
Results: Though rates of smoking have dropped due to education and legislation, electronic cigarettes aren't helping with tobacco cessation and might give users a false sense of security, according to a new study published in the February issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. In fact, the belief that e-cigarettes have no or fewer health risks may be leading teens to experiment with e-cigarettes, reported the University of Minnesota study.
Significance: "Young adults are still developing their tobacco use behaviors, and e-cigarettes may introduce young adults to tobacco use or promote dual use of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products," says study lead author Kelvin Choi, Ph.D.

Fill up on healthy fat.
MOODBOARD

Avocados may halt overeating and snacking

Location of study: U.S.
Study subjects: 26 overweight and moderately obese adults, ages 25-65
Results: Consuming as little as half an avocado during lunch can make an overweight person feel full longer, says a new Loma Linda University Health study published in Nutrition Journal. Researchers found a 23 percent increase in satisfaction and a 28 percent decreased desire to eat for the following five hours, as compared with the avocado-free control lunch meal.
Significance: "Avocados are a very popular and delicious fruit and, from the results of our study, may also be helpful for people who are looking to better manage their weight," says lead study author Dr. Joan Sabate, professor of nutrition at Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

Tree nuts might help maintain a healthy weight

Location of study: U.S.
Study subjects: 803 adults
Results: Consumption of tree nuts is associated with fewer cases of obesity and metabolic syndrome, according to a Loma Linda University School of Public Health study published in the science and medicine journal PLOS ONE. Researchers found there were fewer cases of obesity among high tree nut consumers compared with low tree nut consumers. Tree nuts include almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios and walnuts.
Significance: Metabolic syndrome includes several factors shown to be an increased risk for chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes. "Our results showed that one serving (28 grams or one ounce) of tree nuts per week was significantly associated with seven percent less metabolic syndrome," says lead researcher Dr. Karen Jaceldo-Siegl. "Doubling this consumption could potentially reduce metabolic syndrome risk by 14 percent," she adds.

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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Keep everything out in the open so you can deal with issues as they arise. You must clear up any misunderstandings.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Don't waste the day. Secrets are apparent, and they must be considered before you make a decision based on limited information.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Step out of your shell and try something unique. Offer help and look for ways to utilize what you have to offer in more diverse ways.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Avoid altercations. Partnership problems will escalate if you don't compromise. A common-sense approach to work will pay off.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Take a chance and present what you have to offer. Showing your skills will be far more effective than talking about them.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. You'll be tempted by an offer that may not be legitimate or that is based on hearsay rather than facts. Step back before you suffer a loss.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Relationships, partnerships and mingling with people will bring about unusual and exciting opportunities. Love is on the line.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Watch your back today, especially when dealing with financial, legal or medical issues. Take some time to confabulate with trusted allies.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Your suggestions will be well-received. Do your best to help out, but don't let anyone take you for granted.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Stay calm and rely on your knowledge and ability to deliver information with intelligence and passion.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Take part in unique activities and develop relationships that will be of use to you. Alterations to your living arrangements will be comforting.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Keep an eye on your personal concerns. Be prepared to make a sudden move should anyone stand between you and your goals. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5						4		6
	7	1		4	5		2	9
4				8			5	
					4			
9	8						7	3
			2					
	4			3				7
7	5		1	6		3	4	
3		2						8

8				2		6	9	
			9		7		3	
	3	2				1		7
		9	7				6	
	2			8			7	
	7				9	3		
3		5				9	4	
	4		6		5			
	9	8		1				6

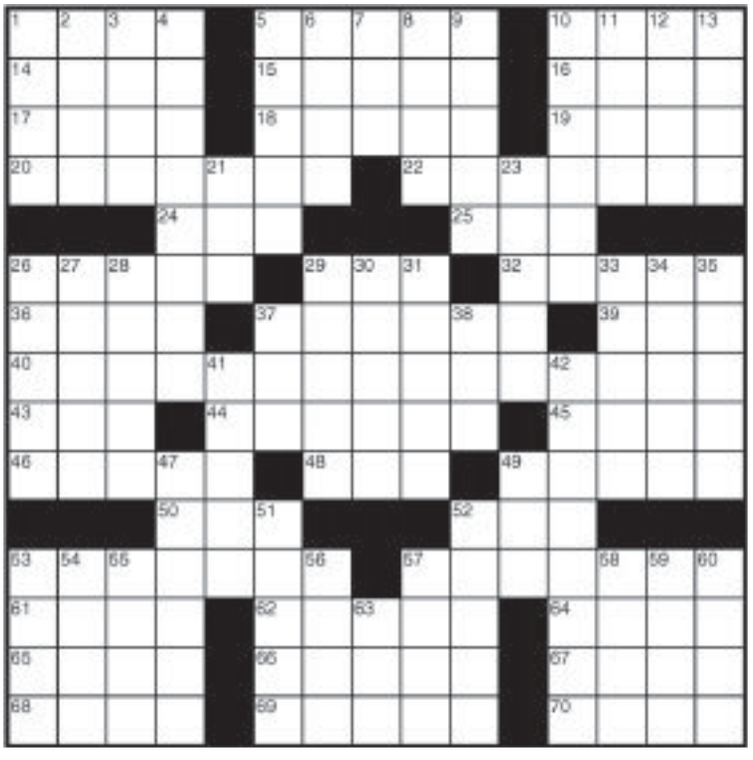
How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across
1 Minds the phone
5 Orange-and-white rental (hyph.)
10 Fiery heap
14 Jazz's home
15 Upper body
16 Authentic
17 Long-gone bird
18 Doctrine
19 Singer — James
20 Went postal
22 Thug
24 Rocky peak
25 Tijuana "Mrs."
26 "Humbug!"
29 Seuss' — -I-Am
32 Cheapen
36 Aussie gem
37 Naval officer
39 Back-fence yowler
40 Is practically infallible (4 wds.)
43 Before now
44 Threaten
45 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
46 Odometer button
48 Mag execs
49 Sultans' cousins
50 Boxer, maybe
52 Roman's 16
53 Lounge chairs
57 Pace setters
61 James— Jones
62 Significant
64 Seine aits
65 Margarine
66 Madrid art gallery
67 Fly like a fly
68 Dateless
69 It "keeps on ticking"
70 Sudden urges

Down
1 Flood residues
2 Egyptian sun god
3 Goose egg
4 Co-workers' gab
5 Sigh or murmur
6 Whacked weeds
7 Prince Val's son
8 Opportunist
9 Pond blossom
10 Factory-assembled
11 Himalayan sighting
12 Pro — (in proportion)
13 Style
21 "Wham!"
23 Euro casualty
26 Juice, so to speak
27 Future fern
28 Furry hoppers
29 Take potshots at
30 Set a price
31 Bearings
33 Video-game pioneer
34 More achy
35 Oscars' cousins
37 Horror-film street
38 Seek excitement
41 Web locales
42 Add moisture
47 Final words (var.)
49 "The Loco-Motion" girl
51 Lure
52 Make copies
53 Business VIPs
54 Sentry's bark
55 General vicinity
56 Graceful wrap
57 Veinlike deposit
58 Fashion mag
59 Equine restraint
60 Former JFK arrivals
63 Wedge in

Yesterday's answer



Letters

So-called 'bullies' make history

The worst thing about Chris Christie's ordeal by the liberal media over Bridgegate nonsense is the bounce it gives his low-life partisan enemies, the Democrats, parasites and their union overlords, especially the most vile of them all, the teachers unions. Christie is a "bully"? Give me a break — Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, FDR, Harry Truman and LBJ were all bullies also, in their own ways. Now they're American icons.
ROBERT SIEGER, VIA EMAIL

Congress v. Middle Class

Millions of Americans are just plain fed up with Republicans and Democrats because of their inability to do what's good for us who put them in office for that purpose. The vast majority supports extending unemployment benefits for the 1.3 million (probably a lot more) with no strings attached, whose benefits ran out at the end of 2013. Cutting funding for schools, food stamps allowance, heating and health care is the wrong way to go toward bringing down our debt. There has to be other ways to cut the national debt, but not on the backs of middle-class families and senior citizens. It's as if both political parties have a death wish on us. Again I say I don't know what the answer is — because Congress, despite poor leadership by President Obama, has to realize that's what they were elected to do. Each side has to swallow their pride, set aside their partisan politics (that are wrecking our economy and our stature as leader of the Free World) and compromise their way to an agreement that will benefit all Americans.
HERB STARK, VIA EMAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Livingston is averaging 11.7 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.6 assists per game since Dec. 27 against the Bucks. / GETTY IMAGES

NBA. Shaun Livingston has returned from a devastating injury to find a home with Brooklyn.

Shaun Livingston's career is still most closely associated with the night of Feb. 26, 2007, when he suffered a hellish and potentially career-ending knee injury on a simple layup.

It was just two and a half seasons after he was a first-round pick out of Peoria Central High School in Peoria, Ill., and the injury was so severe Livingston was not supposed to still be in the NBA.

"Honestly, I try not to think about it," Livingston said. "It's really just about being in the present. You can't live in the past."

Remaining in the league wasn't easy but if there was a culmination of the journey back, Friday's 51-minute performance in a double-overtime win over the Heat might have been that moment.

Livingston scored 19 points, collected a career-high 11 rebounds and handed out five assists. Livingston also drew the charge that fouled LeBron James out of the game.

"Shaun was great, down the stretch, getting guys in position, executing with that play that we called," head coach Jason Kidd said. "He's done it all for us since training camp and it showed [Friday] in the game."

"I think we got a little steal at the beginning of the season when we got Shaun," Andrei Kirilenko said. "He just showed his potential and he's a great talented guy who just blossomed [Friday]."

Jolly ol' England

The Nets flew across the pond Monday for a game in London with the Hawks later this week.

- Nets vs. Hawks
  O2 Arena, London
  Jan. 16, 3 p.m. ET, YES
- The Knicks beat the Pistons, 102-87, last year in London.

The past involved playing four games for the Heat and Thunder in 2008-09. He followed that up by playing 10 more games with the Thunder in 2009-10 before playing 26 games with the Wizards.

He spent time with the Bucks, Wizards (again) and the Cavaliers before finally joining up with the Nets.

Moving around has been part of the process for Livingston, who signed a one-year deal for the veteran's minimum with the Nets. At a time when the Nets lost C.J. Watson to Indiana, they were considering Brooklyn natives Sebastian Telfair and Jamaal Tinsley, but ultimately went with Livingston.

Quickly, Livingston's role went from backup to starter when Deron Williams had his initial bouts with ankle injuries. The results were mixed but during a recent five-game winning streak, Livingston played alongside Williams and the results were better.

He averaged 11 points, 5.6 rebounds, 3.2 blocks and two steals in 37.6 minutes while also showing to be highly capable of facilitating the team's offense and playing solid defense.

"I've been in some rough places, especially after my injury [in 2007], but that's a long time ago," said Livingston. "And there were a lot of different thoughts, but those doubts kind of turned to faith. My family, everybody that's been in my corner, God, it's brought me a long way."

LARRY FLEISHER
sports@metro.us

Quoted

"Everybody on this team knows his journey. Everybody is very familiar with the story and it couldn't happen to a better dude, a better individual. I've seen him work every day and I'm just very proud to be his teammate."

Kevin Garnett, Nets forward
on teammate Shaun Livingston's play this season.

3 SPORTS

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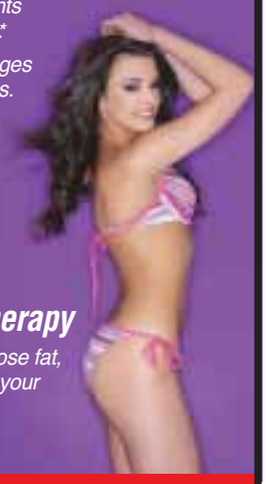

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Tom Brady threw for just 198 yards and did not throw a touchdown pass against the Colts last Saturday. / GETTY IMAGES

BRADY HAS ALL OF THE PRESSURE ON HIS SHOULDERS

On Tom Brady

Under the rules created by anonymous posters in online comment sections of Patriots game stories, Brady is at the head of the class in the "What have you done for me lately?" Hall of Fame.

You will hear all this week, ahead of the most important conference championship football game in the history of Earth, about how Peyton Manning has a mountain of pressure on his shoulders.

It's true. While Manning is largely regarded as the greatest regular-season quarterback of all-time, in the postseason, when it matters most, he ranks below the likes of brother Eli, the Bills' Frank Reich and the Giants' Jeff Hostetler.

He is, as former Bengals and Jets quarterback Boomer Esiason once said, "this generation's Dan Marino." He is statistically the best, but if there's a big game to win, there are dozens of other guys with less talent but bigger grapefruits that you'd rather have leading your team.

But in a career filled with opportunities like this, Manning has yet another shot to silence those who question his "clutch gene." Tom Brady, meanwhile, is fighting a whole different legacy battle.

Opinion

MATT BURKE

MATTHEW.BURKE @METRO.US

By the numbers

11

Brady has a passer rating under 100 in 11 of the last 16 playoff games he's started since winning a title in 2004.

8-8

The Patriots are just 8-8 in those 16 games — including two Super Bowl losses to the Giants — since their last title.

While Brady's mountain of pressure this Sunday is Wachusett compared to Manning's Everest, it is extremely worrisome for Patriots fans to think about the national dialogue if No. 12 loses on Sunday.

With a loss, Brady's head-to-head playoff record against Manning would be an even 2-2. Brady, who already has the strangest career arc of any great NFL quarterback, considering it makes no sense for a man to have become "un-clutch" after starting incredibly "clutch," would be 8-8 in the postseason since the Pats won their last Super Bowl with a loss on Sunday.

And if Brady throws a few picks on Sunday and the Patriots lose, we will hear ugly statistics, like how in 11 of those 16 playoff games since the Pats won it all, Brady has posted a quarterback rating below 100.

Under the rules created by anonymous posters in online comment sections of Patriots game stories, Brady is at the head of the class in the "What have you done for me lately?" Hall of Fame.

Under these rules, Brady's loss last season in the AFC Championship game to the Ravens wasn't all that bad. The loss didn't come to Manning. It wasn't a one-and-done scenario. And it wasn't in a Super Bowl.

The absolute worst offense for a quarterback, of course, is making it to the big game and losing it — but we'll cross that bridge in New Jersey two weeks from now, so long as the Patriots get there or so long as Chris Christie doesn't close it.

This Sunday, Manning's reputation as a playoff choke artist will be cemented if Brady and the Pats go into Denver and beat the Broncos. But Brady's reputation as an all-time great will take a legit pounding if things go the other way.

Yes, Manning and Brady are without question the two best quarterbacks of their generation. But this rivalry has always been part of a much greater debate — the most important football debate in the history of Earth.

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On the offensive

Giants hire Packers' McAdoo

MCADOO SERVED AS A LINE COACH FOR THE 49ERS. GETTY IMAGES

The Giants moved quickly in naming a replacement for retired offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride.

The team announced Tuesday night they hired Ben McAdoo to fill the position.

McAdoo spent the last two seasons as NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers' quarterback coach in Green Bay and was the team's tight ends coach for the previous six seasons.

McAdoo is just 36 years old and is seen as a rising offensive coaching star in the league. The deal is reportedly for two seasons and is McAdoo's first offensive coordinator job at any level.

Gilbride served as offensive coordinator from 2007-13 and was the quarterbacks coach for the two years before that, making him one of the only offensive coaches Eli Manning has ever worked with in his NFL career.

But Manning struggled through maybe the worst season of his career in 2013 and the writing was on the wall for Gilbride, who chose to retire before ownership made likely changes to the staff.

The Giants ranked near the bottom of the league in most offensive statistics last season, including 28th in yards per game (307.5), 19th in passing yards per game (224.3), 29th in rushing yards per game (83.3) and 28th in points per game (18.4). Manning also threw a league-high 27 interceptions. **MARK OSBORNE**

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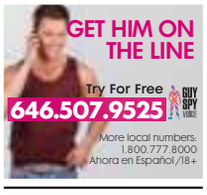

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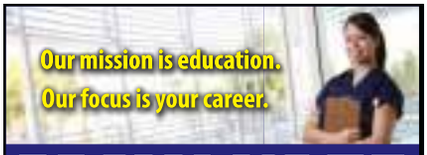

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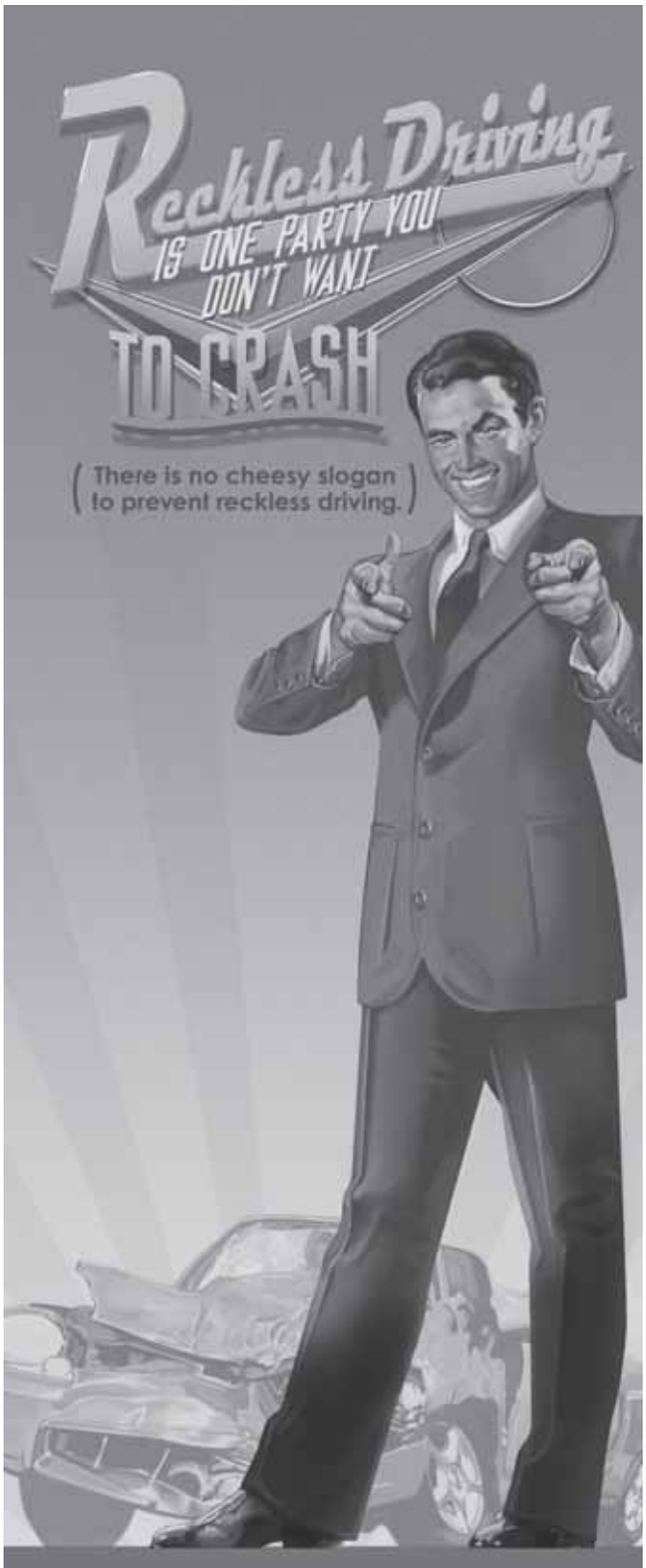

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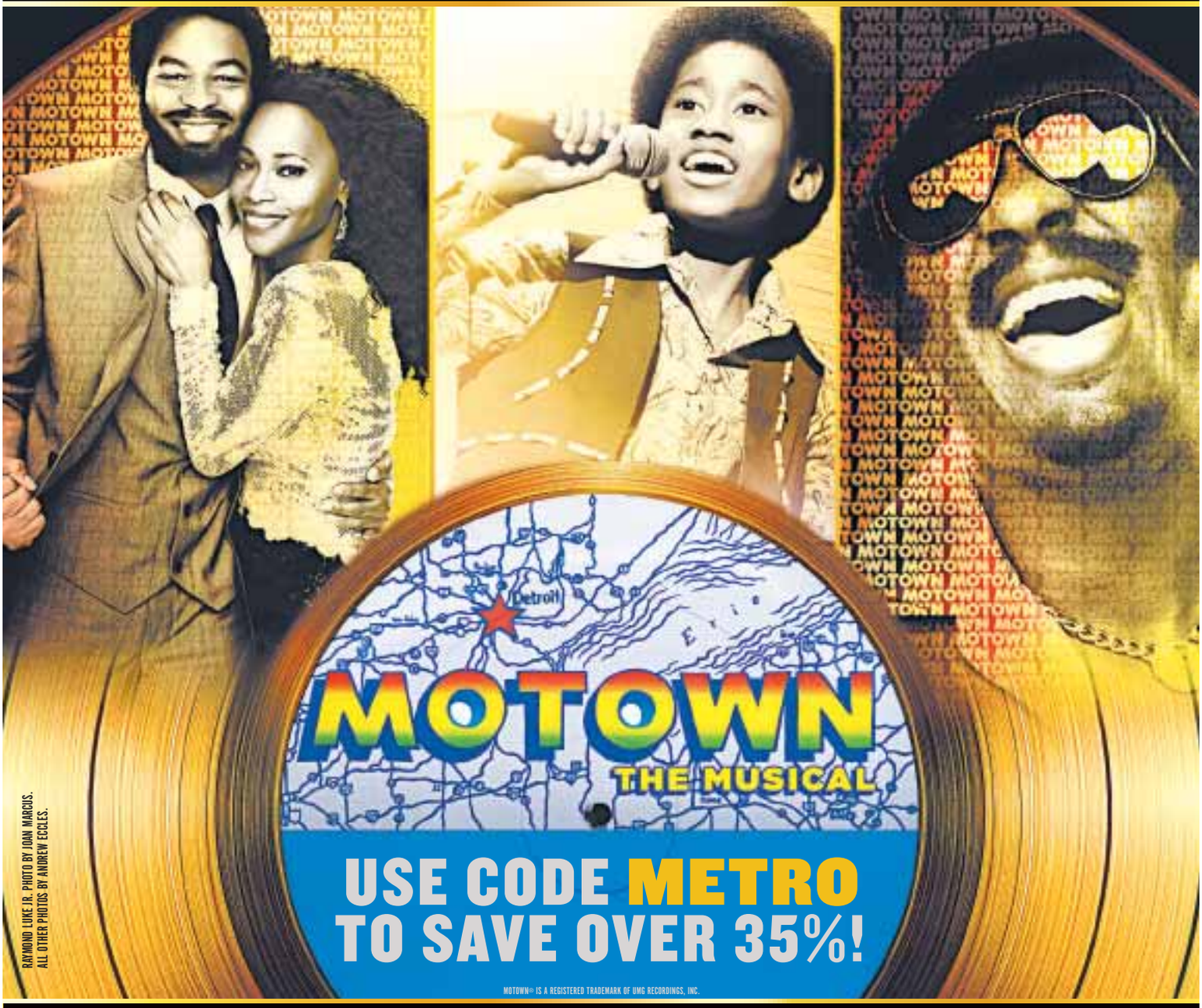

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